THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi as on 1st March, 1997, 22 employees were under suspension as under:—

Period for which suspension	No. of employees under
More than 6 months	3
More than 1 year	7
More than 2 years	2
More than 3 years	6
More than 5 years	4
	22

(c) and (d) As per rules of Super Bazar, the suspension allowance is payable at the rate of 50% of the salary. However, modification of these rules is under consideration of the Management.

(c) As reported by Super Bazar, in case of one suspended employee, the subsistence allowance is being paid at the rate of 75% of the salary on grounds of his poor financial status.

Malpractices by Fair Price Shop Owners in Maharashtra

1480. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor State of PDS in Maharashtra particularly in the rural and tribal areas due to the rampant malpractices by the Fair Price Shop owners;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct a survey in this regard throughout the State instead of depending upon the reports submitted by State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Operational responsibility of implementation of PDS lies with State Governments. No major complaints have been received from State Government regarding malpractices by Fair Price Shop owners in Maharashtra.

Increase of Issue Prices in PDS

1481. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities falling under the Public Distribution Scheme whose issue prices have been increased during the current year;

(b) the extent of increase in case of each commodity; and

(c) the position of the scheme with regard to issue of cereals at half the issue price to the people living below the poverty line, by when this scheme is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) During the current year, the price of sugar has been raised from Rs. 9.05 per kg. to Rs. 10.50 per kg. with effect from 10th February, 1997.

Under the Trageted Public Distribution System (TPDS), issue price of Rice and Wheat has been fixed separately for Below Poverty Line (BPL) Population and above Poverty Line (APL) population as follows: